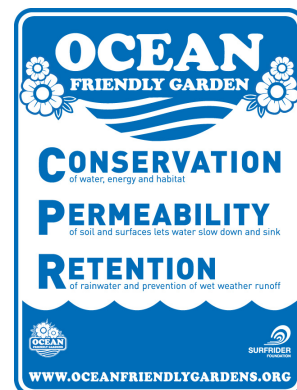


Surfrider Foundation's
Ocean Friendly Gardens Program™
Rainwater Capture In The Soil & The Barrel

Pollutants collect on hard surfaces like roofs and driveways, and are flushed into the street, creeks and ocean when it rains. Turf lawns can become compacted and a source of runoff. Urban runoff is the #1 source of ocean pollution. We can each do our part to prevent it. The [Ocean Friendly Gardens \(OFG\) Program](#) looks at a property as a mini-watershed, where water flows from a high point to a low point. In between, we want it to slow down, spread out, and sink in – like a stream. We call it, “Applying CPR to the landscape: Conservation, Permeability & Retention©.”

We want to direct water from the roof and driveway into the landscape. About 600 gallons of water can be captured for every inch of rain falling on 1000 square feet of hard surface. So a typical 55-gallon rain barrel will fill up quickly. Healthy soil



absorbs rainwater, keeping soil biology happy and tapped by plant's during drier months. Excess water percolates down into aquifers and feeds streams. These aquifers are an important source of drinking water. So here are steps you can take:

Step 1 - Identify Your High and Low Points

Extend rain gutter downspouts away from your home and into dry streambeds. Rain barrels have an overflow: direct that to a landscaped area (connect a hose to the outlet). At the end of the streambed, direct the overflow to the street from very large rainstorms.

Step 2 - Create a “Sponge” in Your Soil

Un-compact your soil, add compost and apply mulch.

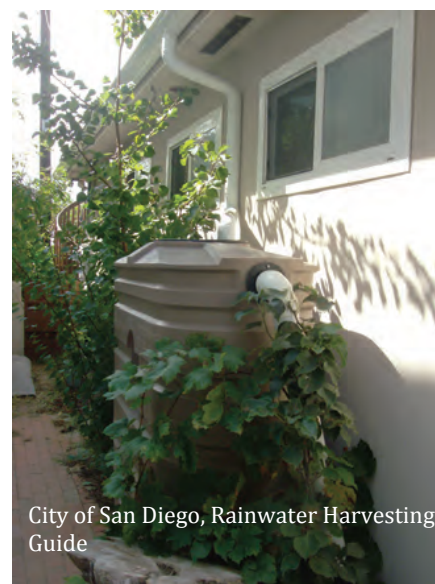
Step 3 – Reduce the Need for Water Use

Use native plants that are

adapted to the climate. There are edible native plants. Fruit trees can provide partial shade to vegetable crops.

Step 4 – Make a Budget

Rain barrels and tanks can help water vegetables in dry months. Calculate how much water the vegetables need to determine the size of the tank.



Learn More & Share Your Story

The [San Diego-Surfrider Chapter's OFG webpage](#) has more information. Learn by helping at an event. Also, go to the [OFG online map](#) to see gardens that strive to meet the [OFG sign criteria](#). See if you qualify, post your garden and put a sign (pictured above) in your yard.

Check out the City of San Diego's [website](#) and read their “Rainwater Harvesting Guide” for more information.